

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 7, cancel claims 6, 19-22, and add claims 23-27.

1. (currently amended) A dentifrice or dentifrice phase comprising sodium bicarbonate, an anionic component reactive with sodium and water to form hydrated crystals, said anionic component selected from the group consisting of orthophosphates, pyrophosphates, polyphosphates, metaphosphates, borates, thiosulfates, and glycerolphosphates, a water content of at least 5 wt. % based on the weight of the dentifrice, a humectant in amounts of at least 10 weight % relative to the weight of the dentifrice, optionally at least one of a ~~humectant, or thickener, or~~ abrasive, ~~or other dissolved species,~~ said dentifrice having a water activity of less than about 0.60.
2. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 wherein said water content is at least 7 wt. % based on the weight of the dentifrice.
3. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 wherein said anionic species is a pyrophosphate or polyphosphate anti-tartar agent.
4. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 wherein said anionic species is an orthophosphate, and wherein said dentifrice further includes a water-soluble or partially water-soluble calcium salt kept separate from said orthophosphate.
5. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is present in amounts of from about 7 to 65% by weight of the formulation.
6. (cancelled).
7. (currently amended) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of ~~claim 6~~ claim 1 further including a thickener in amounts of from about 0.1 to 10 weight %.
8. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 further including a fluoride salt.
9. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 7 comprising at least 7 weight % of water.
10. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 9 further including a fluoride salt.
11. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 further including a surfactant.

12. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 in the form of a toothpaste.
13. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 1 in the form of a dental cream or gel.
14. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 3 wherein said pyrophosphate is a mono, di, tri, or tetra-alkali metal pyrophosphate.
15. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 4 wherein said orthophosphate includes the alkali metal and ammonium salts of orthophosphoric acid.
16. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 3 wherein said pyrophosphate salt is present in amounts of from about 1.5 to 15% by weight of the formulation.
17. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 3 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is present in amounts of from about 7 to 65% by weight of the formulation.
18. (original) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 4 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is present in amounts of from about 7 to 65% by weight of the formulation.
19. (cancelled).
20. (cancelled).
21. (cancelled).
22. (cancelled).
23. (new) A dentifrice or dentifrice phase comprising about 7 to 65% by weight sodium bicarbonate, an anionic component reactive with sodium and water to form hydrated crystals, said anionic component selected from the group consisting of orthophosphates, pyrophosphates, polyphosphates, metaphosphates, borates, thiosulfates, and glycerolphosphates, a water content of at least 5 wt. % based on the weight of the dentifrice, at least one of a humectant, thickener or abrasive, said dentifrice having a water activity of less than about 0.60.
24. (new) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 23 further including a fluoride salt.
25. (new) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 23 wherein said anionic species is a pyrophosphate or polyphosphate anti-tartar agent.
26. (new) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 23 wherein said anionic species is an orthophosphate, and wherein said dentifrice further includes a water-soluble or partially water-soluble calcium salt kept separate from said orthophosphate.

27. (new) The dentifrice or dentifrice phase of claim 23 further including a surfactant.